software; Basic Chemicals; Fabrics, piecegoods & made ups; Ready made garments; Woolen fabrics and Knitwear; and Projects & Services.

(b) and (c) The Marine Products Export Development Authority, Cochin administers a number of Subsidy Schemes for the assistance of sea-food processing plants for export production and modernisation of the sea-food industry. Selected Marine products also get assistance under cash compensatory support.

Handloom garments

1043. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for India agreeing to quantitative restrains for handloom garments even though the MFA provides for exempt status;

(b) whether it is not a breach of the agreement on the part of United States to give a restrictive definition of hand-made; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to assert the Indian stand on 'hand-made' since the United States measures in this regard would be unacceptable to India on socio-economic and political grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) Article 12.3 of the MFA provides for exempt status for hand-made cottage industry products made of handloom fabrics. There has been a difference in the interpretation of the term 'Hand-Made' between the developed importing countries and the developing countries. The developed importing countries interpreted this term as to mean only a process using the needle held by hand and excluding any machine. On the other hand, India held the view that this term would permit the use of hand or foot operated sewing machine. There has been no universally accepted definition of the term 'hand-made' for purposes of application of Article 12.3 of the MFA. Some of the developing countries had also accepted the interpretation of the developed importing countries. In view of the above difference in the interpretation and also the large market access offered by the importing countries, India had to agree for a trade-off under which handloom garments were subjected to restraint while handloom fabrics and made-ups were given the exempt status.

2. The US Government tried to upset the above negotiated settlement last year by notifying a restrictive definition of 'hand-made' for handloom made-up products. India resolved this problem till the expiry of the present MFA by holding consultation with USA. The position is to be reviewed subsequently. The Govt. of India will resist attempts by US and other countries to interpret 'hand-made' in a restrictive manner.

Abolition of Export duty on chrome ore

1044. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's considerations for the abolition of export duty on chrome ore;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to implement the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Export duty on chrome ore has already been abolished with effect from 17th March, 1985

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allocation of rapeseed oil to State/Union Territories

1045. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rapeseed oil allotted to each State/Union Territory in the

North Eastern region during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the rapeseed oil was disposed of at Calcutta or Gauhati by the Government appointed agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) A statement indicating the allocation to/lifting by States/Union Territories in North Eastern Region during the last three oil years (November-October), 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 (upto April, 1986) is given below (*See* below).

(b) No such complaint has been received by the Government. The State Governments have been asked to furnish monthly certificate indicating that the imported edible oil has been fully lifted and the same has been properly utilised for the purpose for which it has been allotted.

Statement

(Qty. MTS Oil Year-wise)

North Eastern States/U.Ts.	1983-84		1984-85		1985-86	
	Allocation	Lifting	Allocation	Lifting	Allocation	Lifting
Assam	12000	3201	6100	2392	1200	243
Arunachal Pradesh . .	590	64	390	33	180	8
Manipur	5100	3451	3660	3700	1850	1918
Mizoram	3250	1032	2290	1734	1050	572
Meghalaya . . .	7245	6292	5655	6134	1200	1064
Nagaland	5500	1596	3460	3720	480	340
Sikkim	2350	1007	1890	655	650	362
Tripura	1770	460	1920	349	600	162
TOTAL:	37805	17103	24365	18707	7210	4669

Grant of subsidy to Meghalaya Government for foodgrains

1046. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy given to Meghalaya Government for foodgrains during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a major portion of the amount given to the State Government is being consumed by agencies like stockists, wholesalers and retailer whereas rural consumers had to pay a much higher price than the urban consumers; and

(c) whether Central Government are aware that bad quality rice with much less quantity is being supplied to the rural areas especially to those who live in remotest areas in Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The amount of subsidy given to Meghalaya Government for foodgrains during the year 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86